

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 11 is added. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Sugiyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,175,613. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for a second leak preventer in sheet form for receiving feces excreted from an anus of the user. Applicants respectfully assert that Sugiyama fails to disclose this feature.

Applicants respectfully assert that Sugiyama's top sheet 16 is not a second leak preventer in sheet form for receiving feces because Sugiyama's top sheet 16 contains a feces separator opening 17 which connects to space 25 which stores the feces between the top sheet 16 and the back sheet 13. That is, feces passes through top sheet 16 via opening 17 and is received by space 25. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Sugiyama fails to disclose a second leak preventer in sheet form for receiving feces excreted from the anus of the user.

Further, in Sugiyama, a fixed-type absorber 14 is located on the back sheet 13 and a front absorber 21 is located on the fixed-type absorber 14 in a front region 10F. Since absorption of urine is mainly achieved by the front absorber 21, the amount of urine absorbed is small. Consequently, urine tends to leak from the front absorber 21, which causes mixing of urine and feces in space 25. However, if the quantity of absorbent material in front absorber 21 is increased to address this problem, absorber 21 becomes bulky and sense of use deteriorates.

However, in claim 1 of the present invention, body fluid is received by the absorber disposed above the first leak preventer and extending beneath the second leak preventer, and feces is received by the second leak preventer. Consequently, the body fluid and feces are not

brought into contact with each other unless the body fluid flows over to the second leak preventer or the feces flows over to the absorber. Also, since the absorber is provided above the first leak preventer extending from a front part thereof to beneath the second leak preventer, the amount of body fluid absorption is large, and because the absorber can be thin, sense of use is excellent.

Claims 2-11 depend from, and are patentable with independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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